

REMARKS

Claims 6, 7 and 11 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 1 to 11, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Engel in view of Hofer and further in view of Proudman. Claims 12 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Engel in view of Hofer and Proudman and further in view of Hechler.

Claims 1, 6 and 19 have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 6 has been amended to clarify that it depends from claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 is requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 to 11, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Engel in view of Hofer and further in view of Proudman. Claims 12 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Engel in view of Hofer and Proudman and further in view of Hechler.

Engel senses the presence or absence of a mark on a sheet.

Hofer is discussed in the Background section of the present application. No markings are detected.

Proudman discloses an apparatus for folding flatwork with counters for processing derived clock pulses.

Hechler discloses a buckle plate folding station.

Claim 1 of the present application has been amended to recite the limitation of claim 2

and now recites:

“sensors detecting a position of the fold relative to markings applied to the printed product; and

an evaluation device connected to the sensors for determining a time lag between two signals of at least one of the sensors, the signals corresponding to a contrast change at the markings, wherein the signals corresponding to the contrast change indicate a front edge of a first marking of the markings or a folding edge of another printed product covering the first marking.”

Claim 1 thus requires that the signals corresponding to the contrast change include a signal indicating a front edge of the first marking and, alternatively, a signal corresponding to the folding edge of another printed product covering the first marking.

None of the prior art shows this feature. In addition, the markings of Engel generally are not suitable to be used to provide for a signal indicating a folding edge of a printed product covering the marking, (as the marking is very short) and deviation of a folding edge from the marking would likely lead to the mark not being covered at all. Also, none of the prior art provides motivation for covering a marking of Engel with a folding edge and having a sensor for indicating the contrast change resulting from a folding edge covering the marking.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

#### Claim 19

Claim 19 now recites “wherein the plurality of contrast changes includes a first contrast change indicating a lead edge of a first of the dark markings on a first printed product, and a second contrast change indicating a folding edge of a second printed product covering the first dark marking.”

None of the prior art shows an evaluation device evaluating a second contrast change indicating a folding edge of a second printed product.

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Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 19 is respectfully requested.

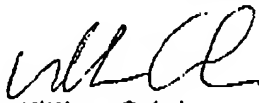
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and applicant respectfully requests such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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RE: Patent Application of:  
Alain SILVESTRE  
Serial No.: 10/026,147  
Filed: December 8, 2003  
For ON-LINE FOLDING POSITION MEASUREMENT

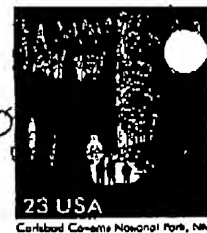
Enclosed Are:

- PTO 1083 Transmittal Form (1 pg);
- Request for continued examination transmittal form (1 pgs);
- Amendment and Response to Final Office Action (8 pgs);
- Check in the amount of \$770.00



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